



State of Utah
Department of
Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of
Forestry, Fire &
State Lands

A. JOEL FRANSDEN
*State Forester/
Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

February 18, 2005

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

STATE AGENCY SELECTED FOR NATIONAL FIRE PLAN AWARD

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has been presented with an award for Excellence in Community Assistance from the USDA Forest Service National Fire Plan. The award recognizes the division's collaborative process for community fire planning, preparedness and protection that has captured the interest of many of Utah's communities at risk of wildfire, resulting in many of those communities organizing and developing their own community fire plans.

The award was presented the evening of February 15, 2005, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the 5th Annual National Fire Plan Conference. Awards were presented to groups and individuals from across the country who furthered the goals and objectives of the

National Fire Plan during 2004. The award winners were selected from more than 120 peer-reviewed nominations submitted from natural resource management agencies in federal, state and local governments, non-government organizations, and other partners.



(l to r) Susan Lauman, FF&SL Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator; Rebecca Watson, Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management; FF&SL Fire Management Coordinator Dave Dalrymple; Dave Tenney, Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; and Kathy Hammons, FF&SL Advisory Council.

The National Fire Plan represents a long-term commitment and investment that is helping to protect communities, natural resources, and most importantly, the lives of firefighters and the public. This long-term commitment is shared among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes, and interested publics. Collaboration, priority setting, and accountability are the guiding principles that will insure the continued success of the National Fire Plan.

Page 2
March 2, 2005
Subject: National Fire Plan Award

For the second year running, the National Fire Plan Conference was held jointly with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Association of State Foresters. The conference was designed to offer high quality learning and information exchange opportunities for all people charged with firefighting responsibilities, particularly those working in wildland urban interface areas.

###